

Iberian Lynx Profile



Hola! (That's hello in Spanish) My name is Esteban and I'm an Iberian Lynx. I live in the Iberian Peninsula in Spain where you can find the largest population of Iberian Lynx. I live in a 'coto', which is the Spanish name for a controlled hunting space. Humans can only hunt a certain number of Iberian Lynx a year. You can also find us in Portugal but in much smaller numbers. I live in the mountains because I can find plenty of rabbits to eat there. I hunt for rabbits at night and I lounge around and sleep during the daytime. I am a nocturnal mammal.

I resemble a large cat only I'm twice its size. I have a spotted coat, long legs for running and pouncing, a bobbed tail and furry ears and jaw. I weigh about 12.8kg but some Iberian Lynx grow up to 26.8 kg. I can climb trees and I'm a natural hunter. I like to hunt for rabbits because one rabbit keeps me full all day. Sometimes there aren't enough rabbits to eat so I look for other animals like red deer fawns, and ducks.

As a male Lynx, I don't like to hang around females unless it's mating season. As a baby, I spent 2 months in my mom's belly and was born along with 2 other siblings in our mom's den. We

Iberian Lynx Family Tree

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Subphylum: Vertebrata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Carnivora
Family: Felidae
Subfamily: Felinae
Genus: Lynx
Species: Lynx pardinus

stayed under our mom's protection until we were about 2 and half years old, then we went off to find our own homes.

My species is highly endangered. Our populations are not growing and this is because humans often hunt the rabbits we eat. When we don't have food, we can't grow and make strong babies. And sometimes the rabbits get a disease and then the deadly disease is passed on to us when we eat them. Humans have to be careful about the number of rabbits they hunt so that we can have food too. We are also worried about the rabbit populations getting smaller when humans cut down the shrubs where rabbits live. When rabbits don't have homes they move away and that affects Iberian Lynx diet.